

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An image forming apparatus, in which software is used for forming an image, includes a display unit, a display information controlling unit  
5 configured to control information displayed on the display unit, an interface unit configured to provide a physical connection with an external apparatus on which an application is implemented, a control unit configured to control the interface  
10 unit and provide a logical connection with the external apparatus, and a relay unit configured to relay between the application and the software, the relaying unit notifying the display information controlling unit of a display that is to be  
15 presented on the display unit to indicate ongoing preparation of the application until the application becomes operational when the control unit provides the logical connection with the external apparatus.